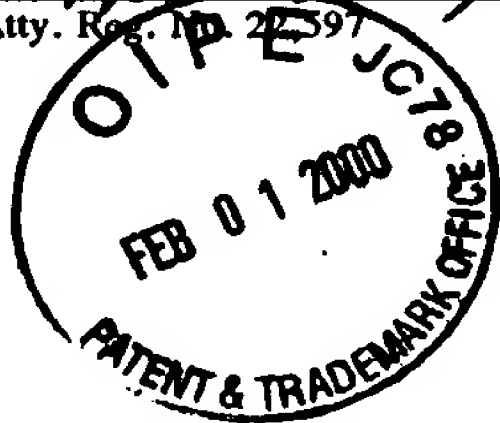


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*David H. Badger*  
David H. Badger, Atty. Reg. No. 20,597



**PATENT**  
**Case No.: 970/045**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of )  
Robert D. Brand ) Art Unit: 3725  
Serial No.: 09/377,120 ) Examiner: W. Donald Bray  
Filed: August 19, 1999 )  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS )  
FOR RETAINING A FLITCH )  
FOR CUTTING )

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Please add the following claim that has been copied from U.S. Patent No. 5,865,232, issued February 2, 1999, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CUTTING VENEER SHEETS FROM A TAPERED FLITCH and listing Thomas A. Miller and C. Pinkston as inventors. This patent issued from the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/813,669 filed March 7, 1997. Claim 39 below is claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,865,232 (the '232 patent).

38.  
39. A method for cutting veneer sheets from a tapered flitch, comprising the steps of  
providing a staylog for a veneer slicing machine having a veneer slicing knife;  
attaching a flitch having a tapered veneer producing face to the staylog with the tapered veneer producing face

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